

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended and new claims 12-15 presented. Support for the amendment of the claims can be found in the drawings, Figs. 1-6 and 12-15. The present amendment is deemed not to introduce new matter. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12-15 are in the application.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 7 has been amended to delete reference to the objectionable language of "less than 1". It is therefore believed that the rejection is moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cook, et al.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention exhaust port 9 is connected to absorption path 13 by pivotally moving downwardly canister head 12 and stand 2. This type of canister bottle F has three ports, namely an absorption port 7, a discharge port 8 and an exhaust port 9. Usually, absorption port 7 of one canister bottle 12 and discharge port 8 of another adjacent canister bottle are connected via connection pipe 15.

An apparatus of the primary type in the prior art had only two of those ports and connection of those two ports with the next bottle is not difficult and, as a consequence, misconnection of these ports rarely occurred. However, if there exists a third

exhaust port, an operator could easily be confused as to which port on one bottle is to be connected to the proper port on an adjacent bottle.

To overcome this problem, the apparatus of the present invention comprises a canister head 12 on stand 2, and exhaust port 9 is connected with absorption path 13 only by laying the canister head 12 down. Thus, for connection of exhaust port 9, no communication pipes are necessary, and misconnection to the other port is prevented.

In another preferred inventive concept of the present invention, bottles E are disposed in a straight line on stand 2 and floats 5 provide an indication of the level of the liquid waste 21. Since the plural canister bottles E are connected to one another, and a canister bottle E is filled from one end to the other, plural floats 5 indicate the capacity for retaining liquid waste 21 in the rest of the bottles in this apparatus.

In a preferred embodiment, the canister bottles and inner bag are transparent and the inner bag is provided with a float inside, and each float containing water absorptive material is visible from outside to provide an indication of the level of liquid waste. Since the plural canister bottles 12 are disposed in a line and are connected to one another, floats 5 indicate the capacity for liquid waste 21 in each of the group of canister bottles.

The Cook, et al. reference although disclosing the use of plural vacuum canisters fails to disclose a stand which has a

canister head which can be laid down and the connecting operation of the vacuum port and absorption path (the conventional hose). On the contrary, that teaching or suggestion comes only from the present application and constitutes an important element or aspect of the present invention.

Moreover, Cook, et al. also fails to disclose canister bottles having a float inside which provides an indication of the level of liquid waste and the capacity of the system as a whole for retaining additional liquid waste. That feature is nowhere disclosed in the Cook, et al. reference but is found only in the present application.

These important features have now been highlighted in the amended claims herein which are now believed to clearly patentably distinguish from the Cook, et al. reference. It is therefore believed that the Cook, et al. reference neither anticipates nor renders unpatentably obvious the subject matter now called for in the claims herein. Consequently, the Examiner would be justified in no longer maintaining the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook, et al. in view of Middaugh, et al.

The Cook, et al. reference is discussed above.

The Middaugh, et al. reference, the Examiner's secondary reference, fails to cure the deficiencies of the primary reference of Cook, et al. as discussed above.

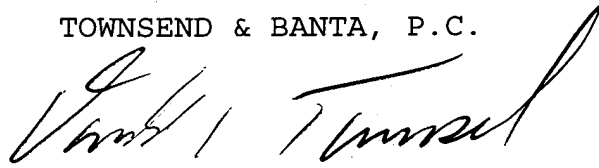
It is respectfully submitted that employing the teachings of Middaugh, et al. in the apparatus of Cook, et al. would not yield the multiple continuous type liquid waste disposal apparatus now called for in the claims herein. For example, there is no disclosure in either Middaugh, et al. or Cook, et al. of a multiple continuous type liquid waste disposal apparatus having a stand for holding the plural connected canister bottles in a straight line and wherein said stand has a canister head capable of pivotal movement for connecting an absorption path disposed thereof to the exhaust ports of the canister bottles. On the contrary, that teaching or suggestion comes only from the present application and constitutes an important element or aspect of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that there is no basis for combining the references relied upon in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Moreover, if they were combined as suggested by the Examiner, they would still not yield the apparatus as now called for in the claims herein. Therefore, it is believed that the Examiner would be justified in no longer maintaining the rejection. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits and early action and allowance thereof is accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Townsend", written in a cursive style.

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS 1 AND 7

Please substitute the amended Claims 1 and 7 for the original Claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A multiple continuous type liquid waste disposal apparatus comprising:

plural connected canister bottles[,] for serving to contain liquid waste absorbed,

each of the canister bottles having an absorption port for absorbing liquid waste,

each of the canister bottles having a discharge port for discharging liquid waste,

each of the canister bottles having an exhaust port for creating negative pressure inside of the canister bottle,

a stand for holding the plural connected canister bottles in a straight line by being serially connected in order, said stand having a canister head capable of pivotal movement for connecting an absorption path disposed thereof to the exhaust port of the canister bottles,

[each canister bottle serving to contain the liquid waste absorbed from the absorption port;]

wherein [:each of the canister bottles has an exhaust port for creating negative pressure inside the canister bottle;]

the discharge port of one canister bottle [is] being connected by a connection pipe to the absorption port of [the other] another canister bottle in a serially connected manner, and

the [exhaust port] discharge port of the last canister bottle arranged at a terminal row [is] being closed.

7. (Amended) The multiple continuous type liquid waste disposal apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the internal bag of the canister bottle contains a float retaining the solidifying agent [and having a specific gravity less than 1].